

## **ACIF welcomes national approach to the implementation of the recommendations of the Shergold Weir Report**

The Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF) has welcomed the Building Ministers' agreement yesterday to a national approach to the implementation of the recommendations of the Shergold Weir *Building Confidence* report. This development will bring greater confidence to the industry, and ACIF commends the Building Ministers' Forum (BMF). While the results of yesterday's BMF were positive, there is much work yet to be done in consultation with industry.

ACIF Executive Director James Cameron commented, "ACIF is pleased that the Building Ministers will strengthen the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), and that the strategic plan of the ABCB will be recast to better reflect the current challenges in the building sector. "

"It is also commendable that the ABCB will be expanded to include greater representation and engagement from industry. Industry has been invited to contribute to the development of the framework through in-kind secondments to the implementation team."

"ACIF understands that terms of reference of the ABCB will be changed and there will be an expanded role for the ABCB, both of which are to be revealed and detailed."

"It is positive that the states and territories will work towards a coordinated approach to professional indemnity insurance. Long term solutions to the insurance situation are still needed, but measures yesterday bring greater confidence and a pathway to start to resolve the issues."

"ACIF notes that a professional indemnity options paper, developed in collaboration between New South Wales and Queensland, will be released for targeted consultation with insurers and the building industry. The options paper will set out a pathway for professional standards schemes and alternative insurance options. Outcomes of the consultation will be reported back to the Building Ministers' Forum by September 2019."

"Industry associations, including ACIF members, will play their part by working to uphold and strengthen professional standards", Mr Cameron stated.

"ACIF has supported greater consistency and moves towards uniform licensing and registration in the construction industry across jurisdictions. With the release of the Shergold Weir Report, the implementation plan and now the coordinated national approach announced yesterday, there is the opportunity to achieve greater consistency."

"ACIF noted that there was no plan announced yesterday to develop and implement a consistent and best practice Australia-wide response for risk assessment and a rectification strategy for existing buildings with combustible cladding, as we called for on 15 July 2019 with other industry groups. This omission is disappointing, and we hope that the BMF will also address this without delay."

"ACIF and its member organisations will consult with the Building Ministers' Forum and Federal and State Governments to implement the recommendations of the Shergold Weir Report and the initiatives announced yesterday, and stand ready to discuss means to achieve this", Mr Cameron added.

### **About Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF)**

The Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF) is the cohesive, trusted voice of the Australian Construction Industry. ACIF facilitates and supports an active dialogue between the key players in residential and non-residential building, and engineering construction, other industry groups, and government agencies. ACIF's focus is on innovation, collaboration, equity and sustainability for the industry.

ACIF Members are among the most significant associations in the industry, spanning the entire asset creation process from feasibility through design, cost planning, construction and building and management. ACIF harnesses the resources

of its Members to research and develop initiatives that benefit businesses of all sizes, from the largest of construction companies to small consultancies. More information on ACIF is available from [www.acif.com.au](http://www.acif.com.au).

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